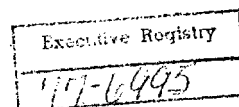




TELEPHONE  
(AREA CODE 202) — 298-9282

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES  
(FOUNDED 1902)

818 EIGHTEENTH STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006



March 25, 1977

Admiral Stansfield Turner, USN  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Stan:

First my congratulations on your being named Director of the CIA. My reaction to that action, a reaction concurred in by so many others, is, simply: The President chose wisely and well.

I do have a question. First, a sentence or two of background. For the past two years, I have been privileged to meet regularly with my counterparts with AUSA, AFA, the VFW, and the National Guard Association. These gentlemen are long-time veterans of the Washington arena, are far wiser than I about life in this jungle atmosphere, and are keenly sensitive to the nuances of utterances from our leaders, both public and private.

The principal topics of discussion Monday at our monthly luncheon were your remarks on Sunday on TV. Three of the five of us had listened to what was said on the program, the other two had read at least three newsmen's versions of what was said. All were curious as to how your remarks should be interpreted, and all wondered whether they were reflective of a softer line toward the Soviets than you had been taking in some of your commentaries in Naples. Needless to say, we fervently hoped the latter conclusion was wrong.

I freely admit that we all may have been missing a basic point, namely, that this was exactly the manner in which you had hoped to leave your listeners - in confusion as to how to interpret those remarks!

Could you find time to enlighten us? That would be welcomed.

Meanwhile, welcome aboard. I sincerely hope you now will be able to keep CIA out of the headlines. It's high time that agency was provided an opportunity to go about its business without being a constant presence on Page One. I'm sure you agree.

Sincerely,

V. C. Thomas, Jr.  
Executive Director

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

4-11-77

Regretted by  
phone this date  
JEH

STAT

Approved For Release 2005/01/12 : CIA-RDP88-01315R000400020003-6

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2005/01/12 : CIA-RDP88-01315R000400020003-6